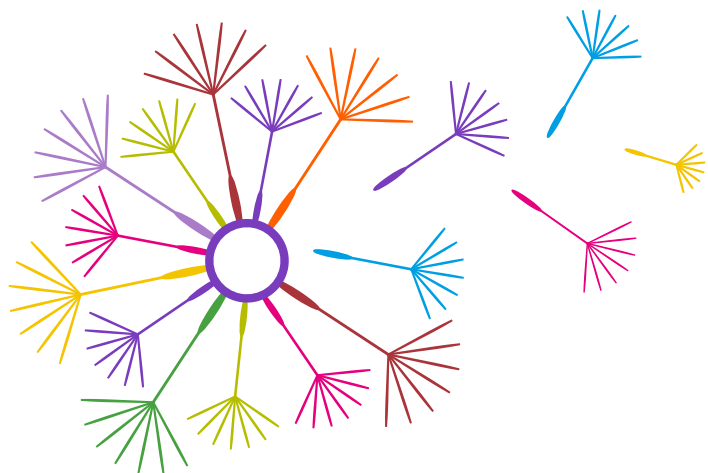


Perth and Kinross
Violence Against
WOMEN
Partnership



*Working together to end violence
against women and girls*

Strategy 2018-2023





Chairperson's Foreword

Tackling violence against women and girls remains a priority in Perth and Kinross. Much has been achieved - an increase in services for victims of gender-based violence, as well as increased awareness in our communities of the support that is available - but there is still much work to be done.

Equally Safe gives us the way forward to tackle gender-based violence, shows how we can take direct action over the short, medium and long-term, and shapes our thinking to prevent the long and enduring effects on our children and young people.

Violence against women and girls is a tangible indicator of gender inequality, and we have to take the long-term view that tackling gender inequality will make our women and girls safer, stronger and more able to thrive.

Lex Greig, Chairperson



Background

The Perth and Kinross Violence Against Women Partnership (PKVAWP) brings together a range of statutory and voluntary agencies in Perthshire with the aim of improving agency responses to women, children and young people who have experienced male violence. The PKVAWP believes that improving participation will result in better service provision, improved legal protection and help prevent further abuse to women, children and young people.

In 2014 the Scottish Government published *Equally Safe: Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls*. In 2016 the national strategy was updated and a framework providing guidance for implementation was included. *Equally Safe* provides a strategic direction to tackle all forms of violent and abusive behaviour carried out predominantly by men directed at women and girls precisely because of their gender.

The aim of *Equally Safe* is:

- *to work collaboratively with key partners in the public, private and third sectors to prevent and eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls.*

Equally Safe has four key priorities:

- *Scottish society embraces equality and mutual respect, and rejects all forms of violence against women and girls.*
- *Women and girls thrive as equal citizens - socially, culturally, economically and politically.*
- *Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising the safety and wellbeing of women, children and young people.*
- *Men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls, and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response.*



Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)


The Partnership strives towards the prevention and elimination of all forms of VAWG and requires, as a starting point, a shared understanding of the nature and causes of such violence.

Members of the Partnership have agreed that the term “*violence against women*” should be defined as including:

- *domestic abuse (including coercive control);*
- *rape and sexual assault;*
- *childhood sexual abuse (including incest);*
- *sexual harassment and intimidation at work and in public spaces;*
- *commercial sexual exploitation and prostitution;*
- *pornography;*
- *trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation;*
- *dowry-related violence;*
- *harmful practices (including female genital mutilation, forced marriage, child marriage and “honour” crimes).*

Definition

PKVAWP understands violence against women as a consequence of the social inequalities which exist between men and women. It recognises that violence against women, children and young people can take many forms and that some women, children and young people may experience different and/or multiple forms of male violence over their lifetime. The PKVAWP supports the following Scottish Government definition of violence against women:



“Gender-based violence is a function of gender inequality, and an abuse of male power and privilege. It takes the form of actions that result in physical, sexual and psychological harm or suffering to women and children, or affront to their human dignity, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. It is men who predominantly carry out such violence, and women who are predominantly the victims of such violence. By referring to violence as ‘gender-based’ this definition highlights the need to understand violence within the context of women’s and girl’s subordinate status in society. Such violence cannot be understood, therefore, in isolation from the norms, social structure and gender roles within the community, which greatly influence women’s vulnerability to violence.”

By adopting a gendered analysis, the Partnership does not deny or minimise the use of violence against men or within same-sex relationships. The gendered analysis is a reflection that women and girls are disproportionately affected by particular forms of violence that they experience because they are women and girls.



Perth and Kinross Violence Against Women Partnership

Our Mission

Working in partnership with organisations, communities and individuals we strive to raise awareness of violence against women and facilitate the development of approaches that support women, children and young people, challenge perpetrators and work towards the prevention of violence against women over the long-term.

Priority Areas

In line with the public service reform agenda as set out by the Christie Commission of Prevention, Partnership, People and Performance, the Partnership's broad area of priority follow the Scottish Government's *Equally Safe* workstreams of:

- **Primary Prevention**
Creating awareness/changing attitudes.
- **Capacity and Capability**
Supporting, developing, refining and co-ordinating the activities of partner agencies.
- **Justice**
Ensuring responses are robust, swift, consistent, co-ordinated and above all responsive to the needs of victims.
- **Accountability**
Working with the Scottish Government to develop a national performance framework.

Strategic Objectives

Taking account of the national strategic aims and the key priority areas outlined above, our local Partnership objectives reflect the complex nature of violence against women and girls and the interdependence of initiatives aimed at making improvements within these aims:

- *Positive gender roles are promoted.*
- *People enjoy healthy, positive relationships.*
- *Children and young people develop an understanding of safe, healthy and positive relationships from an early age.*
- *Individuals and communities recognise and challenge violent and abusive behaviour.*
- *Women and girls are safe, respected and equal in our communities.*
- *Women and men have equal access to power and resources.*
- *Justice responses are robust, swift, consistent and co-ordinated.*
- *Women, children and young people access relevant, effective and integrated services.*
- *Service providers competently identify violence against women and girls, and respond effectively to women, children and young people affected.*
- *Men who carry out violence against women and girls are identified early and held to account by the criminal and civil justice system.*
- *Relevant links are made between the experience of women, children and young people in the criminal and civil system.*



Membership

Perth and Kinross Violence Against Women Partnership (“PKVAWP”) was established in 2008 as the Perth and Kinross Domestic Abuse & Violence Against Women Forum, becoming the Perth and Kinross Violence Against Women Partnership in 2010, to promote a strategic multi-agency response to violence against women in Perth and Kinross. The membership of the Partnership includes public and voluntary sector agencies and is chaired by Lex Greig. Current membership comprises:

- *Perthshire Women’s Aid*
- *Rape and Sexual Assault Centre, Perth & Kinross (RASAC)*
- *Barnardo’s*
- *Victim Support Scotland*
- *Police Scotland*
- *Scottish Prison Service*
- *Scottish Fire and Rescue Service*
- *NHS Tayside*
- *Perth & Kinross Council*
 - ✦ *Housing Services*
 - ✦ *Social Work Services*
 - ✦ *Child Protection Services*
 - ✦ *Adult Protection Services*
 - ✦ *Safer Communities Team*
- *PKAVS - Minority Communities Hub*
- *Perth Soroptimists*
- *PACT - Perth Action of Churches Together*

Partner Responsibilities

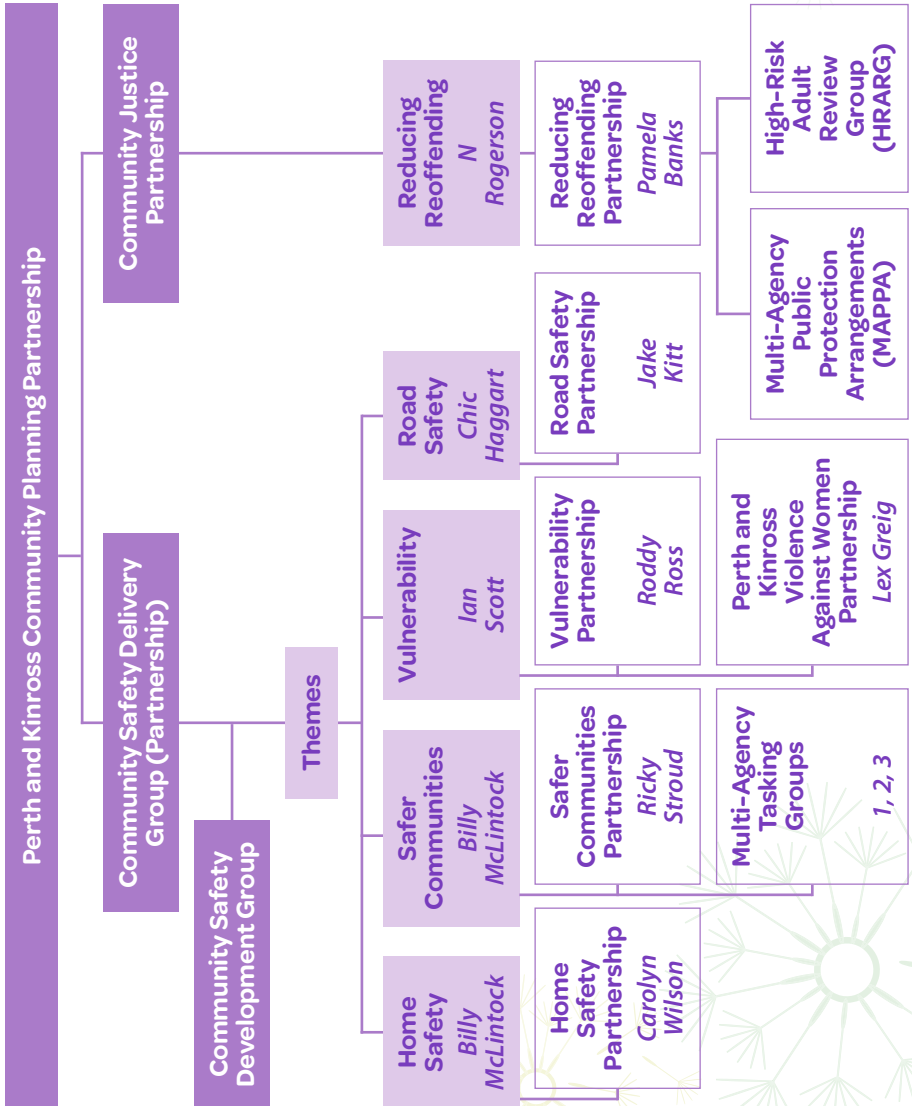
- *To acknowledge and work to the definition of violence against women outlined in the Scottish Government's Equally Safe: Scotland's strategy to eradicate and prevent violence against women and girls.*
- *To take overall responsibility for the delivery of their agency's actions within the set timescales.*
- *To take responsibility with PKVAWP for the achievement of targets developed in the Strategic Plan and ensure these are reflected in the local Violence Against Women Action Plans.*
- *To hold their agencies local delivery mechanisms to account for delivery of PKVAWP priorities.*

Role of Partner Representatives

- *To provide reports on their organisation's developments in relation to violence against women.*
- *To attend Partnership meetings (and to nominate a deputy for attendance when this is not possible).*
- *To progress actions between meetings, independently of the Partnership or in conjunction with other member representatives.*
- *To participate in the PKVAWP meetings and in any short life working groups and to progress specific pieces of work when required.*
- *Be in a position within their organisation to feed into other related Strategies and Action Plans.*
- *Be aware of performance management processes and feed into these.*



Governance Structure





Strategic Objectives for Perth and Kinross

National Priority 1

Scottish society embraces equality and mutual respect, and rejects all forms of violence against women and girls.

Perth and Kinross Objectives

- *Positive gender roles are promoted.*
- *People enjoy healthy, positive relationships.*
- *Children and young people develop an understanding of safe, healthy and positive relationships from an early age.*
- *Individuals and communities recognise and challenge violent and abusive behaviour.*

To achieve these objectives the Partnership will:

- *work with media colleagues to challenge attitudes and norms that contribute to violence against women and girls;*
- *increase awareness amongst children/young people of gender-based violence and improving access to support;*
- *increase the opportunities for children and young people to actively be involved in tackling gender-based violence;*
- *ensure community engagement is meaningful and inclusive and that communities have increased opportunity to be involved in addressing gender-based violence;*
- *provide support for survivors of gender-based violence to have their voices heard and be actively involved in decision-making.*

National Priority 2

Women and girls thrive as equal citizens: socially, culturally, economically and politically.

Perth and Kinross Objectives

- *Women and girls are safe, respected and equal in our communities.*
- *Women and men have equal access to power and resources.*

To achieve these objectives the Partnership will:

- *work with partners in Corporate Equality groups to ensure that Equality Impact Assessments are conducted on all activities that could disproportionately affect women generally but more specifically victims of gender-based violence;*
- *support efforts to tackling poverty in relation to gender-based violence in collaboration with partners;*
- *work in collaboration with partners to increase the mobility of women, decrease rural isolation, and improve access to public transport by ensuring their needs are considered in planning and public transport strategies;*
- *work with partners in the public and private sectors to develop gender-based violence workplace policies.*

National Priority 3

Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising the safety and wellbeing of women, children and young people.

Perth and Kinross Objectives

- *Justice responses are robust, swift, consistent, person-centred and co-ordinated.*
- *Women, children and young people access relevant, effective and integrated services.*
- *Service providers competently identify violence against women and girls, and respond effectively to women, children and young people affected.*

To achieve these objectives the Partnership will:

- *work collaboratively to improve the sustainability of specialist violence against women services;*
- *collaborate with funders and planners to embed a co-ordinated community response to gender-based violence in Perth and Kinross.*
- *Provide support to universal services to enable front-line staff to be more confident/competent to respond safely and effectively to all forms of gender-based violence;*
- *develop a common, shared understanding of risk assessment and safety planning in relation to domestic abuse;*
- *promote a multi-agency approach to tackling high-risk cases of domestic abuse, thus improving the effectiveness of scarce resources;*
- *provide a mechanism for service user experience to shape the co-ordinated community response.*

National Priority 4

Men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response.

Perth and Kinross Objectives

- *Justice responses are robust, swift, consistent and co-ordinated.*
- *Men who carry out violence against women and girls are identified early, risk assessed and held to account by the criminal and civil justice system.*
- *Relevant links are made between the experience of women, children and young people in the criminal and civil system.*

To achieve these objectives the Partnership will:

- *engage with partners to improve the court outcomes for victims of gender-based violence;*
- *engage with partners in the court system to enable children's views to be considered in contact cases;*
- *enable partners in the legal profession the opportunity to be better equipped to represent gender-based violence victims in court;*
- *work with partner agencies who have responsibility for early identification of men who carry out violence in order that current/future victims are protected;*
- *work in partnership to ensure better information is shared with Courts in relation to risk of further harm and/or the victim impact.*



Conclusion

This strategy is aligned to the ambitions of both the Scottish Government and COSLA and is a mix of aspirational objectives for societal change and practical activities to support and develop delivery of services to women and girls experiencing violence.

As with any partnership, the speed of progress and ongoing development is dependent on the ability of partners to respond to challenges and this inevitably requires a degree of flexibility to reflect this. The Partnership, therefore, will prepare an annual work plan which should be read in conjunction with this document and will provide a fuller picture of current Partnership priorities and activities.

If you or someone you know would like a copy of this document in another language or format, (on occasion, only a summary of the document will be provided in translation), this can be arranged by contacting the Customer Service Centre on 01738 475000.

You can also send us a text message on 07824 498145.

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(PKC Design Team - 2017733)